

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 480

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to make emergency loans under the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act and to provide emergency assistance to greenhouse farming operations whose energy costs have escalated sharply.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 6, 2001

Mr. SHOWS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to make emergency loans under the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act and to provide emergency assistance to greenhouse farming operations whose energy costs have escalated sharply.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Greenhouse Farming
5 Emergency Energy Assistance Act of 2001”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

1 (1) sudden and dramatic increases in energy
2 prices have caused an economic disaster for green-
3 house farming operations; and

4 (2) such an economic disaster is as devastating
5 to a community as a natural disaster and should be
6 regarded as such.

7 **SEC. 3. EMERGENCY LOANS FOR GREENHOUSE FARMING**
8 **OPERATIONS WHOSE ENERGY COSTS HAVE**
9 **ESCALATED SHARPLY.**

10 A qualified energy price increase found by the Sec-
11 retary of Agriculture to have been experienced by a green-
12 house farming operation shall be considered a natural dis-
13 aster for purposes of subtitle C of the Consolidated Farm
14 and Rural Development Act, but only with respect to such
15 an operation.

16 **SEC. 4. IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR GREEN-**
17 **HOUSE FARMING OPERATIONS WHOSE EN-**
18 **ERGY COSTS HAVE ESCALATED SHARPLY.**

19 (a) AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—As soon as prac-
20 ticable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
21 Secretary of Agriculture shall provide financial assistance
22 directly to greenhouse farming operations that the Sec-
23 retary finds had a qualified energy price increase to assist
24 the operations in covering all or a portion of the higher

1 operating costs incurred as a result of the increase in en-
2 ergy prices.

3 (b) EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.—The eligibility of a
4 greenhouse farming operation for assistance under this
5 section does not require either the existence of a natural
6 disaster in the county in which the greenhouse farming
7 operation is located or an emergency designation by the
8 President or the Secretary.

9 (c) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall use funds made
10 available under section 815 of the Agriculture, Rural De-
11 velopment, Food and Drug Administration, and Related
12 Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (as enacted by Public
13 Law 106–387; 114 Stat. 1549A–55), to provide assistance
14 to greenhouse farming operations under this section.

15 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

16 In this Act:

17 (1) GREENHOUSE FARMING OPERATION.—The
18 term “greenhouse farming operation” means a farm-
19 ing operation that produces nursery or other horti-
20 cultural commodities in a greenhouse or similar en-
21 closed structure for commercial purposes.

22 (2) QUALIFIED ENERGY PRICE INCREASE.—The
23 term “qualified energy price increase” means, with
24 respect to a greenhouse farming operation, that the
25 average price paid for energy supplies for the oper-

1 ation during the period that began on January 1,
2 2000, and ended on the date of the enactment of
3 this Act is at least 25 percent greater than the aver-
4 age price paid for energy supplies for the operation
5 during the period that began on January 1, 1997,
6 and ended on December 31, 1999.

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